

Insight Into



March / April 2023

*“The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word
of our God shall stand for ever”
(Isaiah 40:8).*

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Insight Into

General Information

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As a Reformed magazine, *Insight Into* seeks to promote the knowledge of the truth and to give biblical guidance to young people in their daily lives.

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Insight Into is also available in PDF format and can be sent to you by e-mail. Please text 1-604-793-3848 or e-mail ajdenboer@shaw.ca if you are interested in receiving this publication electronically. For questions, suggestions, or ideas for future topics, text 1-604-316-0566.

MEDITATION

Those That Have Rule

“Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God” (Hebrews 13:7).

The situation of the Hebrew Christians was extremely difficult in the time that the apostle wrote to them. They were persecuted for the Name and sake of the Lord. It was not only that they were scattered and lost their possessions, but they were not sure of their life on account of the persecutions. Many Christians had been killed, and especially their leaders were the targets. Satan used the same old method: Kill the officers and the soldiers can easily be defeated.

It seemed that the enemy was successful, because several of the Hebrews began to waver. They thought of the former days when they brought their sacrifices to Jerusalem; at that time there was no persecution and they had a visible church, which made it much easier for them.

Do we not have the same problem today? True, there is no open persecution in our country, but it becomes more difficult to remain faithful to the truth of God’s Word. According to the Scriptures, the time is drawing nigh when the power of the antichrist will be felt. He propagates that there is a much easier religion, wherein we may serve God and Mammon together. The old-fashioned conversion is not necessary anymore in our modern days!

The apostle seriously warned the Hebrews to remember those who had the rule over them, or who were their guides. They were the office-bearers who went before them and showed them the way of salvation. They were to follow them who preached the way of salvation for a poor and needy sinner.

We have the Bible and the old fathers, who have left an inheritance for us. Go in these footsteps.

~ Taken from *52 Weekly Morning and Evening Meditations*
by Rev. A. M. den Boer (1929-2004)



“Remember Not”

“Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions: according to Thy mercy remember Thou me for Thy goodness’ sake, O LORD”

(Psalm 25:7).

Submitted

We must all admit that we have done foolish things when we were young. But it was *not* only foolish. We have all committed sins of youth. We were stubborn, knew things better than our parents, laughed about their concerns, and dismissed the seriousness of life. Nothing was ever dangerous in our opinion. Nothing seemed that bad or that reckless, and we did not view sin as such a slippery slope at all. I know what I am doing; my parents are overly concerned, we thought. In other words, we *were* led by our feelings! They are usually very strong in people, and passions can carry them away very quickly. Before you know it, you are caught up in something, you end up in a rut, and you cannot easily steer clear of it anymore.

Whoever you are, young or somewhat older, you need God’s forgiveness. We are only young once, but that is not a good excuse. The sins of our youth are real sins, and our Creator has not forgotten one of them. He remembers the movies we have seen, the books we have read, the sites some have been on, the games we were crazy about, and the celebrities we idolized. The Lord remembers what we did with our friends and tried to *hide* from our parents. Childhood and youth are vanity, and we *need* forgiveness for being so disobedient to all the commandments. Yet we may know that God is merciful, and He can forgive sins. Yes, He can blot out the entire past. Do you know why the Lord can forgive? Read the text above. “*For His goodness’ sake,*” He can forgive. The Lord can forgive for His own Name’s sake.

The News Does Not Satisfy: Only Christ Does!

Rev. P. van Ruitenburg

News hunger, the need to know what is for sale in the world. It's great for gathering news, but also for spreading it. Have you already heard? A lot of news is exchanged while having coffee. I'm not talking about gossip but about reading the newspaper and talking about current events. It sounds rather innocent to me. However, I was reminded of the inhabitants of Athens from the time of Paul. He was in the right place to tell the great news of the gospel, because in Athens, people had ears for a news item. On the Areopagus, people gathered every day who spent their time with nothing but to "say and hear something new." Meeting and passing on news had become the life of these Athenians, and it felt good to make others aware that you know things they didn't know before. It was already the same then that being informed gives the feeling that you are participating in the game and not just on the sidelines. Surfing the Internet for hours and getting new stimuli gives the feeling that you are on earth with two feet on the ground. News makes life real. One can compare it to seeing new things, different landscapes, and cultures. It gives some colour to your life. Life moves fast because of the news gathering, and it prevents you from getting bored.

Is that allowed? What are we still allowed to do? Well, we can stay informed, but should we not all be careful that the news does not control our lives? Maybe we should limit ourselves. Isn't the good message from God's holy Word being supplanted? You can't read the Bible "all day," I hear you say. But can we watch the news "all day"? Read a gospel one night along with a commentary. Choose a psalm and study it a little better. That makes a lot of sense. Write out a Bible chapter. That makes much more sense and only when God's Spirit applies the Word do we live. Then we can also exchange really valuable things. The news does not satisfy: only Christ does!

"All things are full of labour; man cannot utter it: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing" (Ecclesiastes 1:8).

"For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21).

"And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea" (Luke 1:65).

A Time of Vanity, or a Time of Instruction?

*“Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity;
and quicken Thou me in Thy way” (Psalm 119:37).*

*“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?
by taking heed thereto according to Thy Word ” (Psalm 119:9).*

Mr. J. Timmer

What is time for you? Kill time and you murder opportunity. Lost time is never found. “Time and money are the heaviest burdens of life, and the unhappiest of all mortals are those who have more of either than they know how to use” (Samuel Johnson).

If your great-grandfather were living today and he pulled you aside to warn you of impending danger, would you take heed? If he saw something that might damage your soul irrecoverably and took the time to admonish you, would you stop and consider it? Below is an article written over 60 years ago, so that would be the time your great-grandfather was living. In those days, the fathers saw a storm coming which would have catastrophic results. The damage would kill many and lead to negative lifelong effects in others.

The effect of media upon the average person is profound. It takes our attention, fills our mind, and dominates our thinking. It scars the heart. Have you noticed the number of people on their phones or other devices even in a restaurant? Instead of speaking together across the table, many are transfixed to their device. What about all the illicit uses of the phone wherein the entire world is at the end of someone’s fingertips. If the warnings below were given in 1956, what would the warning of impending doom be for 2023? The dangers have grown from an impending earthquake to a visible tsunami.

This exceedingly solemn statement is issued by the American Motion Picture Research Council, consisting of leading educational authorities in the United States, with no religious bias or connection.

What was written in 1956 follows:

“Seventy-seven million attend (movies) each week in the United States. The movie is the feeder of lust, a school of crime, the betrayer of innocence. It glorifies sexual impurity as love, pictures murder as entertainment, exalts nakedness and indecency as beauty. It shows drunkenness, divorce, revelling, gambling, adultery, and fornication as proper and legitimate. It debauches the minds of children, inflames lust in youth, hardens the hearts of the wicked. It is a trap for souls, a mocker of God.

As a class, movie actors and actresses are immoral--their influence evil and disastrous. The few exceptions who might have a good influence use it for an evil purpose by appearing with evil characters, thus becoming bait for many who would not otherwise go. It is tradition among movie makers that marriage is not sacred, and if not, it can be nothing else but prostitution, dress it how you may.

To attend pictures means to be influenced by the lowest moral and spiritual strata of society, with immoral and godless standards. That is why it is unsafe to attend even selected pictures.

Readers, must we not judge that also television or movies in the home are a trap for souls, a mocker of God. What a drawing and wicked temptation for young and old; what a satanic snare in which millions of even church people are entangled unto eternal destruction if the merciful Lord will not lead to repentance. Oh, parents, never bring television into your home. It is a dangerous trap and snare of Satan and his instruments. Oh, tell your children to shun and hate such evils and idols. Television! How destructive for this nation. Further and further away from God and His Word” (The Banner of Truth March 1, 1956).

What more could be added to the warnings above to the dangers posed by the sinful world that has opened up by the Internet? Every imaginable evil is available by the stroke of the mouse as the world of vanity is brought up before our eyes. As the eye was the gate for Eve to lust for the forbidden fruit, so this gate is now unbarred through this media. What a fearful time to be living! How can we escape the dangers lurking behind every Internet page. What an urgent need to be kept from the dangers of this present world.

What are some statistics about media as of December 2022?

1. It is estimated that there are over



six billion smartphone users worldwide, and about five billion of those have access to the Internet.

2. Some of the most popular apps in the world, such as Facebook and YouTube, have more users than China has people.

3. It is estimated that 76% of all adults in developed countries have a smartphone and in one country (South Korea) 95% of all adults have one.

4. There were 55 billion games downloaded in 2021.

5. People between the ages of 18-24 spend an average of 112 hours a month on phone apps!

6. As of July 30, 2019, **42%** of Americans stream and download movies and TV shows **daily**, more than viewers in any other country.

7. In 2021, approximately 209.3 million digital music singles were downloaded in the U.S.

Do you find these statistics startling? Would you agree that we, as human beings, are starving for fulfillment, purpose, and meaning but are so prone to look for this in the wrong places?

What are some wholesome activities that we should rather engage in?

1) Enjoying the beauty of creation through hiking and biking and hearty physical activity. David saw God's creation as a manifestation of His power and special care for him: *"When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the Son of man, that Thou visitest him?"* (Psalm 8:3-4).

2) Spending time with family and friends for meaningful discussions pertaining to life and our soul's wellbeing. We are admonished to faithfully assist each other in this manner. *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers"* (Ephesians 4:29-30).

3) Setting aside particular times for private devotions each day. Daily Scripture reading seeking for the benefit for our soul must not be neglected. Start each day--even if this habit seems so hard to establish--seeking help, protection, wisdom, and grace. *"Those that seek Me early shall find Me"* (Proverbs 8:17) pertains to seeking God first each day and also pertains to early in life.

Study God's Word and ask the Lord to be your teacher and guide. Read books from our Church fathers and ask that the matters that are read may be applied to the heart and experienced in the heart and life. *"My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon*

the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass” (Deuteronomy 32:2).

Young people, when you hear the word “doctrine,” what do you conclude? Hard rules, dictatorial message, losing all your ability to be you, to express yourself, to believe how you want to believe?

Does doctrine matter? Luther has said that doctrine is heaven; what did he mean? Calvin said that purity of doctrine is the soul of the church.

There is a great eternal need to experience the truth in our hearts, the new birth, to experience true repentance, and faith and love to the Lord Jesus. This experience must be in harmony with the Word of God. True experience does not come at the expense of the truths of God’s Word. It comes by the teaching of the Holy Spirit. It is a breaking down of self, and an opening of the eyes to the truth of God and His Word.

The preaching of God’s servants contains the precious doctrines or teachings of the gospel. By the power of the Holy Spirit, they are applied to the heart; so as Luther said, they are from heaven, applied in a way that a man cannot apply to himself; applied in the heart in a way that one is lost and yet found.

Experience without the teaching of the true doctrine is an empty mass; if the heart is not cleansed by the blood of Christ, the life is not a living to God’s honour.

True doctrine gives a comfort to the soul, the attributes of God are matters to be wondered at, and this causes a humble walk and talk. It is a fruit to God’s honour.

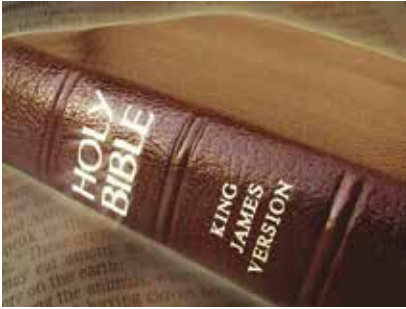
True doctrine honours God; it is to His glory. When the teaching of God’s Word is in harmony with the teaching in the heart, then Christ is honoured and the Spirit of God has a place to work. When the teaching is false, and not according to the Spirit, God is not glorified, Christ is dishonoured, and the Spirit is grieved. And one can walk in their own strength, feelings, and conclusions.

May God show and teach you while you are young.

“If you believe what you like in the gospel, and reject what you don’t like, it is not the gospel you believe, but yourself” (Augustine).

“If it were not that ingratitude had blinded our eyes, every birth would fill us with amazement.”

~ John Calvin (1509-1564)



A Word for Young People

Rev. J. K. Popham (1847-1937)

Individually and as a congregation, we have much to thank God for. We have entered a new year, and if we look back, even though we may have been afflicted, we shall see--that is to say if we have a right sight and true light--that there is much more to give thanks for than there is to complain about. Indeed, truly we have nothing to complain about except sin. God has been good to us individually, has brought us thus far, has not permitted us to make, as concerning faith and a good conscience, shipwreck; has not allowed us to turn away from the form of sound words, and this is much to be thankful for in this day. In providence He has been kind to us, giving us daily bread, feeding us, as the word is, with food convenient for us, and giving to us kind friends.

To the young people, I would say you have much to be thankful for, such as for homes, for right influences, for an open Bible, for the health you have had, and for the blessings of God's kind providence; also for family life. Oh, it is a great blessing, and I think never should it in the past, never could it have appeared to be so great as today it must appear to all who have right feeling when the old-fashioned family life is departing very much from the land, and all that that used to characterize families is rapidly, so to speak, melting away. You ought, you who have right influences about you in your family, to be very thankful for such mercies, and do not forget them, and do not follow the present fashion; do not speak disrespectfully of parents when you are out of their sight. Try not to associate yourselves with people who would lead you to think lightly of parental authority and family influence. Keep away from all such things. Keep away from bad reading; endeavour to follow that which is good. If you must read, then read history, especially church history, and above all read your Bibles. You have them still. Eschew novel reading, eschew that

which invades the mind, inflames the imagination, and leads away from all good, moral, solid feeling. Eschew all that kind of reading and follow that which is sober and steady. There are still plenty of books to do you good, morally speaking; look for them; read them. Be thankful for your mercies, be thankful for any associations of a sort that are good, that have an influence upon you for good.

Young people, let an old man warn that you are in danger. God keep you; God keep you from danger. The danger of frivolity is very great; the danger of infidelity is very great; the danger of a sensuous religion, ritual, here and there is very great, and the danger of that broad, critical view that brings the Bible under its scrutiny to criticize it, to find fault with it, that danger is very great. Alas for the schools, alas for the teachers, and alas for the taught; it is rife in schools. Now I do pray God may keep you from all these evils, my dear young friends. May I not have the sorrow of seeing you depart from the form of sound words in which you have been brought up. The Lord have mercy on you.

“Where God loves, He afflicts in love, and wherever God afflicts in love He will, first or last, teach such souls such lessons as shall do them good to all eternity.”

~ Rev. Thomas Brooks (1608-1680)





Christian Prayers

Rev. E. Hakvoort

In the back of your Psalter, you will find the well-known three general and three specific doctrinal standards. You can also find there the liturgical forms, among which are the form for the administration of Holy Baptism and the form for the administration of the Lord's Supper, as well as the forms for the installation of ministers and office-bearers. But we also find there 14 Christian (form) prayers.

Have you ever noticed these prayers in your Psalter? Then you undoubtedly also know the question which then comes up: Why are these prayers actually in our Psalter? Because as far as we know, they are not used in our church life. Yet, we can find deep and beautiful things in them. So, the question is why our fathers have made them? And what is the reason they are never used? And are there in these prayers also aspects which can be for our instruction?

I would like to ask if you have ever read these Christian form prayers? Maybe you are thinking with this question, form prayers? We don't like that very much. It so easily becomes custom and moreover, you need to keep your eyes open when praying them. We are not used to that, and it is for sure not something we teach our children. So, why would we use these form prayers? No, they must be free prayers, which come straight from our heart.

Now I must honestly confess that I don't use these form prayers myself either. There is also not much written about these "Christian Prayers" as they are called. Maybe that is because people don't know what to do with them. Yet, I want to highlight a few things in these prayers, First, the place of these prayers. You can find them after the confessions and the liturgical forms, and that is not without reason. To confess may never be out of

custom or routine. No, if it is right in the heart of God's children, then to confess may lead to prayer and worship.

And there we find the *first lesson*. The catechism is preached almost every Sunday, right? Each Sunday the 12 Articles of Faith are read in God's house. But we may not only hear these things out of "custom or superstition." What we confess about the triune God is what we all need to live and die happily. May that bring us at the throne of God's grace, begging of His mercy. And at moments to end in worshipping the triune God for His free and sovereign grace.

These Christian prayers mainly originate from a booklet which Petrus Datheen wrote in 1566. He wanted to offer a book to guide the religious services as well as family worship. Some of these Christian prayers are written by Datheen himself, and some he derived from others. In the first half of the 17th century, a few prayers were added regarding the ecclesiastical meetings. But this article will be too extensive if we would provide all those details.

There is also a *second lesson*. You probably will have noticed that these prayers originated in the time of the Reformation and the Second Reformation. In those days, many were convinced of the truth and joined the churches where the truth was preached according to godliness. These people were raised in the Roman Catholic tradition of form prayers with calling upon Mary and the saints. Therefore, our fathers wanted to give sound prayers according to God's Word. So, these form prayers are not given as standard prayers to always be prayed, but they serve to instruct us in the things which are important in our personal and ecclesiastical prayers.

And there we see *a third lesson*. Dear friends, when we read these Christian prayers, must we then not honestly confess that we all are guilty? How poor are our prayers and only focussed on ourselves. The church reformer Martin Luther already said that we by nature pray more towards ourselves (then it is about ourselves) than that we pray away from self (then it is about the Lord and His honour). Is our prayer not often more a making known of our wishes and desires, than that it is focussed on the Lord's honour, even if that means that we have to perish?

Do we understand these things? When grace is in exercise, God's children may confess at times that even if there is no heaven as reward nor hell as punishment, then the Lord is still worthy to be sought and worshipped. These must not only be words, but this must be reality in our heart. And that we find so touchingly in these Christian prayers. Let me give you a few quotations, with the hope and prayer that we may learn to

seek God's countenance, begging like the disciples did: "Lord, teach us to pray, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought" (see Romans 8:26).

In the prayer before the catechism preaching, we read: *We, however, are by nature blind and incapable of doing anything good, and Thou wilt succor only those who have a broken and contrite heart and who revere Thy Word. We beseech Thee, therefore, that Thou wilt illumine our darkened minds with Thy Holy Spirit and give us a humble heart, free from all haughtiness and carnal wisdom, in order that we, hearing Thy Word, may rightly understand it and may regulate our lives accordingly.*

In the prayer for all the needs of Christendom, we read how fervently they prayed for the government: *We also pray for all civil magistrates. Particularly would we remember those whom Thou hast set in authority over us. Grant that they may fulfill their task in such a manner that the King of kings may reign over them and us, and that the kingdom of Satan, which is a kingdom of shame and iniquity, may through them as Thy servants be more and more opposed and destroyed and that we may live a peaceful life in all godliness and honour.*

It would look a lot different if these things would be more in exercise. We could mention more. Although they are "but" form prayers, they are instructive and put our family and church prayers to shame. Even though we don't use those form prayers literally, may the Lord teach us the contents of these prayers, for in them the Lord is exalted to the highest and sinners are abased to the lowest. Nothing is left from us, and we are in need of the Spirit of grace and supplication. Thus, we may pray for a prayer to be instructed. God's Spirit still works, also among us! It may still be heard, also among our young people. Is that already your portion as well?

"Certainly, if we are to believe what our eyes see, then the kingdom of Christ seems to be on the verge of ruin. But the promise that Christ will never be dragged from His throne, but that rather He will lay low all His enemies, banishes from us all fear."

~ John Calvin (1509-1564)

"So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

~1 Corinthians 3:7



Our Duty in the Morning

Matthew Henry (1662-1714)

Whatever others do, let God hear our voice in the morning, and in the morning let us direct our praises unto Him.

I beseech you, suffer a word of exhortation concerning this. I know what an influence it would have upon the prosperity of your souls, to be constant and sincere in your secret worship, and therefore, give me leave to press it upon you with all earnestness; let God hear from you every morning. Every morning let your prayer be directed to Him, and look up.

Make conscience of your secret worship; keep it up, not only because it has been a custom you have received by tradition from your fathers, but because it is a duty, concerning which you have received commandments from the Lord. Keep up stated times for it, and be true to them. Let those who have hitherto lived in the total neglect, or in the frequent omission, of secret prayer, be persuaded henceforward to look upon it as the most needful part of their daily business, and the most delightful part of their daily comfort, and do it accordingly with a constant care, and yet with a constant pleasure.

Let none plead they cannot pray; for if you are ready to perish with hunger, you could beg and pray for food; and if you see yourselves undone by reason of sin, can you not beg and pray for mercy and grace?

Let none plead that they have not time in the morning for prayer. I dare say you can find time for other things that are less needful. You had better take time from sleep than want time for prayer. And how can you spend time better, and more to your satisfaction and advantage?



“Ye Must be Born Again”

Mr. W. H. Burnet

In the conversation which our Lord had with Nicodemus, He twice emphasized that there is no other way into the kingdom of heaven but by the God-appointed wicket gate: “*Ye must be born again*” (John 3:7). It is very clear that the Lord Jesus Christ did not say, “*Ye ought to be born again,*” which would imply that this is somehow the duty of fallen man to accomplish. No! “*The wind bloweth where it listeth*” (John 3:8) and thus the Holy Spirit accomplishes this vital change as and when and on whom He wills. So, “*it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy*” (Romans 9:16). So why did the Lord Jesus Christ use the word “*must*”?

Firstly, it was to emphasize a vital necessity. There is no substitute for this work of the Holy Spirit. Without this we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven by faith, nor will we have an entrance to the heavenly kingdom within the veil. We need a new heart and a new spirit. The very fact that the Lord Jesus said it should be enough to convince us that it must be so. He cannot lie nor deceive.

Secondly, the natural man and the carnal mind cannot receive this truth. Being at enmity to God and godliness, there is no room in the heart of fallen man for the new birth. Thus, another nature is needed; new wine must be put into new bottles.

Thirdly, there can be no fellowship with a holy God and that which is sin. Therefore, a nature in which fellowship with God can be experienced is needed. Thus, no unquicken sinner can enjoy fellowship with God either here below or in heaven above.

Fourthly, the Saviour, in using this word “*must*,” enforces this truth as one that if we are wise, we will be greatly concerned about, to be the partaker of the new birth. The treachery of fatalism is not part of the Lord’s teaching, neither is the presumption of assuming it is well with our soul without the new birth.

Fifthly, the example of the wind as a type of the new birth gives us the standard by which we are to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith or not. The wind is unseen, yet its effects are. So, there is an effectual work wrought within the soul of conviction of sin, under a sense of the just demands of the holy law of God. The newborn soul is made acutely aware that he is unfit for the fellowship of a most holy God. There is nothing in his fallen flesh that God can approve. Furthermore, it is beyond his power to remedy the solemn breach that his birth in Adam and the fruit of that fallen nature has brought. Thus, the north wind blows sovereignly upon the innermost being of the newborn child of God. Then he begins to learn that he is in need of something out of self to remedy the plague and dominion of sin and to answer for the immense debt it has procured under the holy law of God.

Sixthly, in due season the south wind of mercy blows sovereignly upon the aching, longing soul. Some precious revelation of Christ is given in His suitability and ability to save, His blood to atone, and His righteousness to cover the great sinner he feels to be. Now the child of God longs for the wind of the Holy Spirit to bear an infallible witness that the Saviour is willing to save such a wretch as he feels to be. Though he reads of the willing Saviour, yet because the matter is so vital, and the word “*must*” presses so heavily on his soul, nothing less than the witness of the Spirit will settle his awakened, convinced soul.

Seventhly, the fact that “*none can keep alive his own soul*” (Psalm 22:29) implies the continuing need of quickening grace to maintain the work the blessed Spirit has begun. The word “*must*” is to a true-born child of God a continuing exercise in that respect.

Why should the children of a King
Go mourning all their days?
Great Comforter! descend and bring
Some tokens of Thy grace.

Dost Thou not dwell in all the saints,
And seal them heirs of heaven?
When wilt Thou banish my complaints,
And show my sins forgiven?

Assure my conscience of her part
In the Redeemer's blood;
And bear Thy witness with my heart,
That I am born of God.

Thou art the earnest of His love,
The pledge of joys to come;
And Thy soft wings, celestial Dove,
Will safe convey me home.
~ Isaac Watts

“Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which He will shew to you to day” (Exodus 14:13). So spake Moses to Israel when the Red Sea was before them, and the might of the Egyptian army behind them. We can well imagine that Israel found it was difficult to *“stand still”* under these circumstances, and to feel that they had to do something to deliver themselves. So it is with us. When we face insurmountable problems, it is so difficult to *“stand still,”* and to wait for God to bring peace to our troubled hearts. Israel found that when they committed their way to the Lord, He did not fail them, and so also will we who trust Him.



If Jesus Came ...

Rev. M. Romeyn (1913-1971)

As a Christian, we must live in the world, but not belong to the world. We read in Psalm 1:1; *“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”* Here are some thoughts to consider.

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two,
If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you’d do.
Oh, I know you’d give your nicest room to such an honoured guest,
And all the food you’d serve to Him would be the very best,
And you would keep assuring Him, you’re glad to have Him there
That serving Him in your home is joy beyond compare.

But when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door
With arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly visitor?
Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in?
Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they’d been?
Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn’t heard?
And wish you hadn’t uttered that last loud, hasty word?

Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out?
Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about?
And I wonder, if the Saviour spent a day or two with you,
Would you go right on doing the things you always do?
Would you go right on saying the things you always say?
Would life for you continue as it does from day to day?

Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace?
And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace?
Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read?
And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?
Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you’d planned to go?
Or would you, perhaps, change your plans for just a day or so?

Would you be glad to have Him meet your very closest friends?
Or would you hope they’d stay away until His visit ends?
Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on?
Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone?
It might be interesting to know the things that you would do,
If Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

~ L. B. Eades