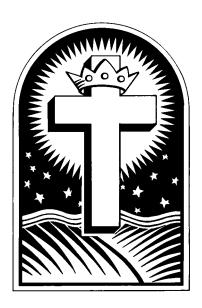
Family Worship Hymnal

Hymns for Home and School



Christian Liberty Press Arlington Heights, Illinois

Most hymns taken from *Songs of Hope* Compiled by E. O. Excell © 1928 Originally published by Hope Publishing Company

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All Scripture references are from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

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Christian Liberty Anthem

Lord, We Give Thee Thanks



Introduction

It was Martin Luther who stated, "... next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

The gift of music is a wonderful treasure indeed! Countless homes and churches have been blessed over the centuries by songs of praise and worship to Almighty God and by songs that remind us of the value of friendship, love, and freedom. It is through the singing of songs and hymns that God often chooses to unite hearts and kindle deeper sentiments of affection within the souls of His creatures. How much poorer would we be without the blest memory of past days that were spent in the happy exercise of singing?

As the human race enters upon the opening of the twenty-first century, it often appears to be in a headlong pursuit to destroy itself as fast as possible. The love of many has grown cold, as families and communities struggle just to survive in the wake of fractured relationships and increasing violence. Could it be that modern Americans, with all of their sophistication and high-tech gadgets, have lost the ability to relate to each other on a personal level? If the answer to this question is yes, then it is proper to also ask, "What can be done to bring families and communities together again?"

The answer, I believe, lies principally in reviving the old practice of family worship and prayer. History teaches us that the family that prays and sings together, stays together. The first step, then, must be for every soul to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ and to embrace the Gospel. Once this vital move has been made, the next step is quite easy; simply turn off your television and video games and gather your whole family around the piano or guitar to sing.

Although it is sometimes difficult to push aside the clamor of the world and its alluring toys for the simple pleasure of singing with loved ones, your diligence will be greatly rewarded. The song collection that follows will help you to get started in the noble task of family worship, and it will also be a genuine source of good old-fashioned fun.

The hymnal that follows is not arranged in any special order. As a result, you may choose to utilize the hymns in any order that appeals to your family. An extensive section containing some of the Psalms and several responsive readings is printed at the back of this book to provide individuals with the opportunity to incorporate the reading of

Scripture into the routine of family worship. Families may wish to commit one of the Scripture selections to memory each week.

May your love for God, music, and your fellowman grow as you utilize the *Family Worship Hymnal*.

Michael J. McHugh

Benefits of Hymn Singing

- 1. Hymns help us in our worship of God, both on a personal and corporate level. (Matthew 26:26-30 and Psalm 100:1-4)
- 2. Singing spiritual songs from the heart helps the people of God to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit in the inner man. (Ephesians 5:17-21)
- 3. God uses hymns to transmit courage and spiritual strength to His people so they can withstand trials or temptations. Paul and Silas sang while in prison. (Acts 16:16-32)
- 4. The Lord inhabits the praises of His people and has ordained that His children make a joyful noise. (Psalm 66:1-4 and Psalm 22:1-4)
- 5. Singing praises to God promotes unity as God's people lift up their voices as one sound unto the Lord. (2 Chronicles 5:11-14)
- 6. Singing hymns is excellent preparation for the life to come, for the saints of God will be praising the Lord for all eternity. (Revelation 15:1-4)
- 7. Sacred music has the God-given capacity to reach the hearts of people and affect their emotions and spirits. (1 Samuel 16:13-23 and James 5:13)

The Importance of Family Worship

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore" (Psalm 133).

Family unity and peace is a blessing that cannot be overrated. This selection is designed to show that it is directly promoted by family worship.

The deliberate and consistent assembly of a whole household for the purpose of praise and worship of God, provides more than simply the means of bringing the several members together. There are striking differences among families in regard to the simple quality of cohesion. While some are a bare collection of so many particles, without mutual attraction, others are consolidated into a unity of love. Many scattering influences are at work. Some of these may be attributed to a lack of system and regularity; some to late hours; some to peculiarities of business; some to fashion; and some to the influences of vice. From one or several of these influences we see domestic harmony impaired. Parents and children meet only at their meals, and not even at all of these. The tardy inmates of the house descend in the morning at any hour, and at long intervals, and the evening is often despoiled of the charm of home. In such circumstances, the links of family affection are inevitably tarnished, if not worn away. In proportion as the subjects of mutual obligation live apart, they will cease to care for one another. No customs of society are laudable or safe which tend, in any considerable degree, to separate parents from children, and brothers from sisters. It is good to bring together the coals on the domestic hearth. Hence we have always looked with unqualified satisfaction on the New England custom of gathering all the members of a family, however remote, under the paternal roof on the day of annual thanksgiving. There is a sacred virtue in even beholding the face of an aged father and a gentle beloved mother. On this very principle, the president of a prestigious college, justly celebrated for his influence on young men, was accustomed, when he saw the first sign of rebellion in a student, to call him to his study, and kindly propose to him a simple visit to his parents. We do not wonder that the effect was often magical.

Family worship assembles the household twice every day, and that in a deliberate and solemn manner. No individual is missing. This is the law of the house from childhood to old age. The observance is as stated as the daily meals. Other employments and engagements are made to bow to this, until it becomes the irreversible rule of the little commonwealth. Such assemblies provide opportunities for each family member to look upon one another's faces and exchange kind words and gentle wishes. Such influences, which may seem rather trivial, rise to inestimable magnitude when multiplied through all the days of long years, that is, over the entire progress of family life. By those who have enjoyed them, they can never be forgotten. Such households stand in open contrast to those where parents and children, in haste and disorder, and with many interruptions, snatch their daily bread, without so much as a word of discussion, thanks, or prayer.

Some good results, in respect of harmony, ensue, when a household purposely assembles for the common pursuit of any lawful object whatever. Union, and the sentiment of union, are promoted by joint participation, and the effect is appreciable where the gathering is frequent. Though it were only for exercise or recreation, for the practice of music, for an evening perusal of useful books, still there would be a contribution to mutual acquaintance and regard. But how much stronger is the operation of this principle when the avowed object of the meeting is to seek the face of God, and to invoke His blessing!

There is no way in which we can more surely increase mutual love than by praying for one another. If you would retain warmth of affection for an absent friend, pray for him. If you would live in the regards of another, beseech him to pray for you. If you would conquer enmity in your own soul towards one who has wronged you, pray for him. Dissension or coldness cannot abide between those who bear each other to God's throne in supplication. It is what we meet to do at family worship. Often has the tenderness of a half-dying attachment been renewed and made young again, when the parties have found themselves kneeling before the mercy seat. Every thing connected with such utterance of mutual good-will in the domestic worship tends to foster it, and thus the daily prayers are as the dews of Hermon.

The devotions of the household are commonly conducted by the parent, and parental affection often needs such an outlet. The son or the daughter might otherwise remain ignorant of the anxieties of the father. There are yearnings which the parent cannot express to man, not even to a child, but which must be poured forth to God, and which have their appropriate channel in the daily prayer. The hearing of such petitions, gushing warm from the heart, and the participation of such emotions, cannot but sometimes reach the stubborn childish mind, and tend to a strong and reigning affection. Both parent and child, if they are ever touched with genuine love, must experience it when they come together before their God and Savior.

That revelation of divine truth that is perpetually expressed or implied in family worship, in Scripture, in psalms, and in prayers, enjoins this very peace and affection. The New Testament presents it in every page. The Word of God and prayer are, from day to day, bringing the duty constantly before the conscience. The household that is subjected to this forming influence, may be expected, more than others, to be a household of peace.

Some notice must here be taken of a painful but common case. Human depravity sometimes breaks forth in friction and strife, among members of the same brotherhood, and, alas, even within the sacred limits of a Christian house. Harsh tempers, sour looks, moody silence, grudges, bitter words, and alienations, mar the beauty of the family circle. Therefore, we find slights, angry rebukes, suspicions, and recriminations entrenched in the home. Happy, indeed, is that household over which these black clouds do not sometimes hover. But what means shall we seek to dispel them? The family altar! Only an extraordinarily obstinate sinner will be able to let the sun go down upon his wrath when he is obliged to worship with the entire family. It is hard to listen long to the Word of God without hearing the rebuke of all such bitter feelings. For example, the very portion read, may say to the unrelenting one, "... if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23). At any rate, the whole spirit of the exercise convicts any family member who wishes to remain hard-hearted of his sin; for it is most difficult to pray with malice on the heart. The spirit of forgiveness often comes to us while we are upon our knees.

Suppose then, what we are reluctant to suppose, that mutual reproaches, perverse separation, and open quarrel, should enter a Christian family. To offenders, in such a case, the season of prayer must be an hour of keen rebuke. Avowedly, they are bowed down to pray for one another. The hypocrisy and impiety of attempting to do so out of a mind of hatred, will stare the sinner in the face, and will often bring him to repentance. Reconciliation, begun in the heart, during moments of devotion, may lead to the restoration of peace in the home.

Sad as is the thought, even husband and wife may be at odds with each other, and may give place to the devil. Harshness, severity, distrust, and unkindness, may spring up between those who have vowed to live together as heirs of the grace of life. But it is hard to believe that such persons, if they possess a spark of grace, can come to the posture and the words of prayer, encircled by their kneeling little ones, without surrendering the selfish spite, and making a faithful effort to crush the head of the viper. Marital tenderness, forbearance and love, are guarded by the exercises of family-devotion.

Contrast all this with the condition of a domestic circle subject to the same dark influences, but without these checks and this sacred balm, and you will no longer marvel that where there is no worship, there is no place for healing. The stream of unkindly temper runs on. Brooding silence is the best that can be expected. The day closes without reference to God. The griefs of the day are carried over into the morrow and all this because of a lack of spiritual influence that would be secured by the hour of prayer.

In speaking of family worship as a means of promoting family unity, we might dwell on its influence upon absent members of the household. As children grow up, there are few families that do not send forth from their bosom some children to distant places. These children are not forgotten at the hearth that they have left. Day by day, the venerable father, joined in silent love by the more melting mother, cries to God for him who is afar upon the sea, or in foreign lands. These are moments that bring the cherished object full before the mind, and make the absent one present to the heart. Such prayers serve many useful purposes. Chiefly, they rekindle and maintain the fire of affection. Most older children who leave home will not fail to prize these parental intercessions, or disregard the supplications of the brother or the sister

left at home. Often, we are sure, the recollection of the domestic worship comes up before the distant youth, on the high seas, or in remote wanderings. Often is the secret tear shed over these privileges of his childhood. In the perpetual fire of the family altar, he knows that he has a stable refuge in his father's house.

When, after years of absence, which may be due to some sin, the son or daughter revisits the home of his childhood, and that worship is renewed which he remembers so well-what a torrent of ancient reminiscence pours into the heart! Such associations have their influence on even hardened natures, and they go to prove the blessedness of this familiar institution.

But after all that we may urge, the great and crowning reason why domestic worship promotes harmony, is, that it promotes true religion, and religion is love. Its mission is peace on earth and good will to men. Unlike the humanistic schemes of secular philosophers and psychologists, which tear the household elements asunder, Christianity compacts the structure, and strengthens every wall. It adds a new cement, and makes the father more a father—the mother more a mother—the son more a son; so that there is not a social tie which does not become more strong and endearing by means of grace. If even enemies are reduced to toleration by the gospel, how much greater must be its influence on the ties of blood and affinity! It consecrates every natural relation, and exalts human affections by expanding them into eternity.

The daily lessons, constantly recurring in family worship, bear directly on this point. "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church. Let the wife see that she reverence her husband. Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath. Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord. Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ. And ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening, knowing that your Master also is in heaven. Love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous. Honor all men. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers. Be kindly affectioned one to another, with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil-speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Such are the touching accents of the

gospel in general, and of this institution in particular, familiarized to every member of a Christian house, from their childhood. And what the Word of God enjoins, the Spirit of grace produces in the heart, where true religion finds entrance. Under the daily influence of such motives, which drop as the rain and distill as the dew, the youthful heart may be expected, in many cases, to receive the noblest charities of a renewed nature.

Amidst all the imperfections of a fallen world, there have been thousands of families, since the founding of the Church, which have realized this ideal; and what spectacle on earth is more lovely? From the very cradle, the infant lips are taught to lisp the name of God, and the soft voices of childhood join in the daily praise. Brothers and sisters, already brought by baptism within the pale of the visible church, grow up with all the additional reasons for mutual attachment, which spring from dedication to God. No day passes in which parents and children do not compass God's altars. When the father and mother begin to descend into the autumn of life, they behold their offspring prepared to walk in their steps. There is a church in the house. When death enters, it is to make but a brief separation; and eternity sees the whole family in heaven, without exception or omission.

In cases where divorce or death have prematurely fractured the husband—wife relationship, single parents have even more reason to maintain family worship. A broken family can only be fixed by the reestablishment of Christ as the covenant head of the home. And there is no better or more meaningful way to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ, the Good Shepherd, than through the instrument of the family altar. Only Christ can fill the void left by a family circle that has been broken by divorce or death.

The happiest family on earth will not always be so. The most smiling circle will be in tears some day. All that I ask is, that you would secure for yourselves and your children, a friend in that blessed Redeemer, who will wipe all tears from your faces. Your families may soon be scattered, and familiar voices may cease to echo within your walls. The children in a household do not stay children long. They quickly grow up and take off for college or careers. O see to it, that the God of Bethel goes with them, that they set up an altar even on a distant shore, and sing the Lord's song in that foreign land. They may be taken from this earth altogether, and leave you alone. O see to it, that

as one after another goes, it may be to their Father's house above, and to sing with heavenly voices, the song that they first learned from you, and that you often sang together here—the song of Moses and the Lamb. And if you be taken, and some of them be left, see to it, that you leave them the thankful assurance that you are gone to their Father and your Father, their God and your God. And, in the meanwhile, let your united worship be so frequent and so fervent, that when you are taken from their head, the one whose sad responsibility it is to take your place, as priest of that household, shall not be able to select a chapter or a psalm with which your living image and voice are not associated, and in which you, though dead, are not yet speaking to them. "And thus my heart's wish for you all is,

'When soon or late you reach that coast,
O'er life's rough ocean driven;
May you rejoice, no wanderer lost,
A family in heaven.'

James W. Alexander Reprinted from Thoughts on Family Worship © 1847

Doxology



The Ten Commandments

AND God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

- I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
- II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.
- III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
- IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.
- V. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.
- VI. Thou shalt not kill.
- VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
- VIII. Thou shalt not steal.
 - IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.
 - X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Exodus 20:1-17

The Greatest Commandments

HEAR also the words of our Lord Jesus, how He saith: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Matthew 22:37-40

Excerpts from the Apostles, Nicene, and Chalcedon Creeds

I believe in God the Father Almighty; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; truly God, and truly man, Light of Light, Very God of Very God; like unto us in all things, yet without sin; Who, for us men and our salvation, came down from heaven. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary; crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified. And I believe in one holy and apostolic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

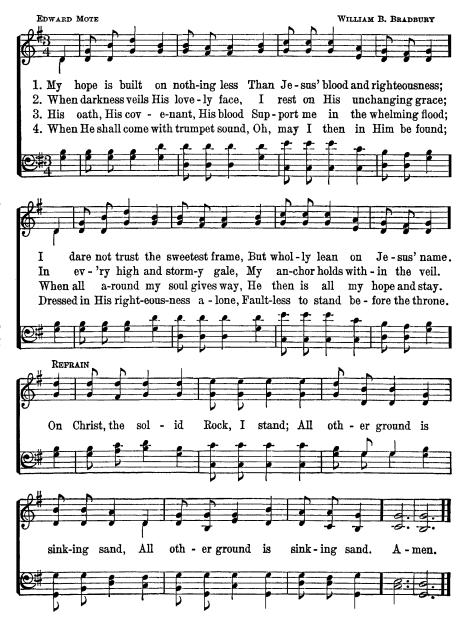
Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Matthew 6:9-13

Family Worship Hymnal

Hymns for Home and School

My Hope Is Built



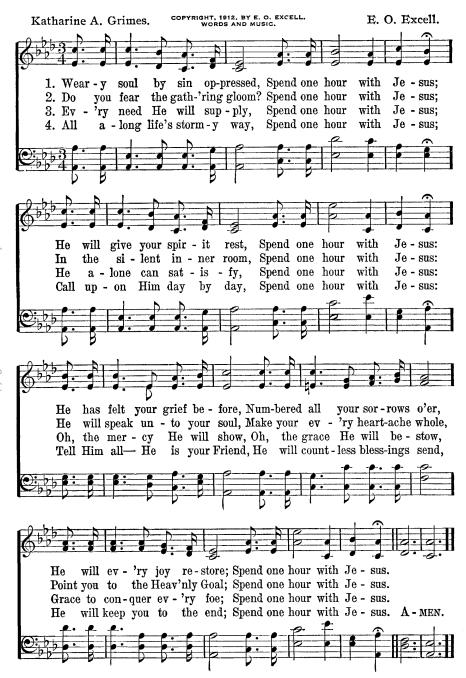
No Night There



Beneath the Cross of Jesus



Spend One Hour with Jesus



'Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer



We're Marching to Zion



O That Will Be Glory



The Way of the Cross Leads Home



Abundantly Able to Save



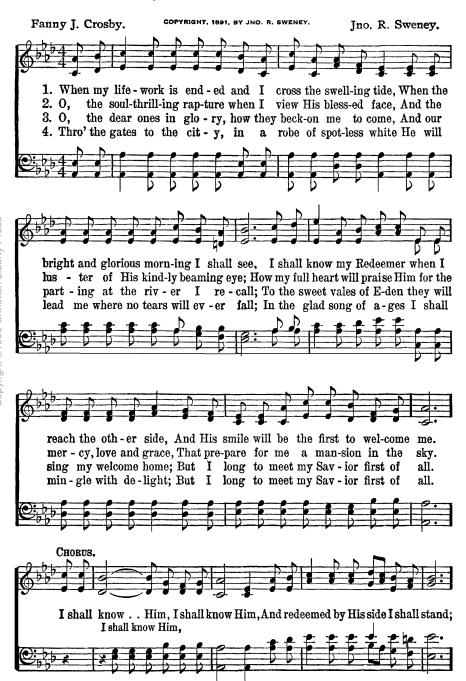
We've a Story to Tell to the Nations



We've a Story to Tell to the Nations



My Savior First of All



Soldiers of Jesus

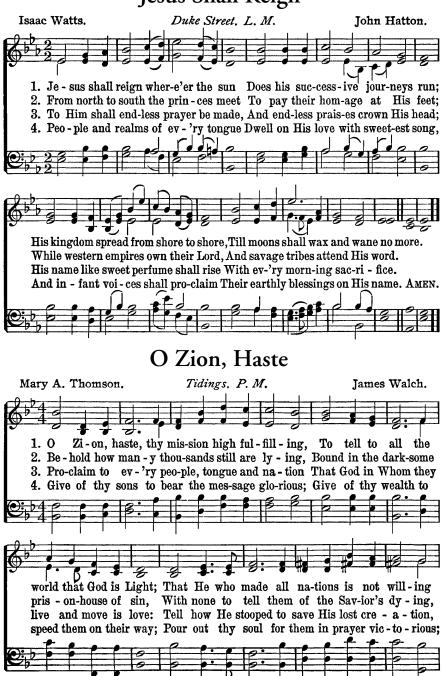




The Fight Is On



Jesus Shall Reign



Take Time to Be Holy



Be Ye Holy, For I Am Holy

As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

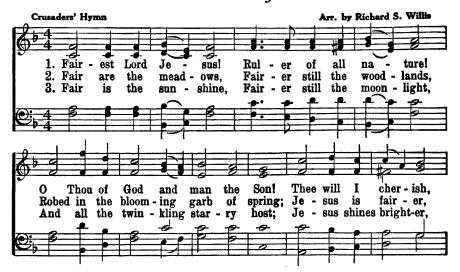
But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

My Soul, Be On Thy Guard



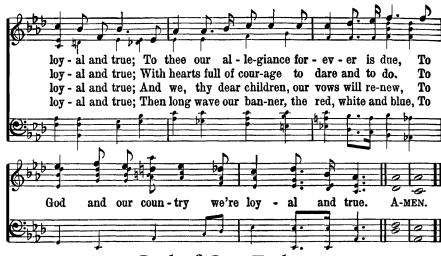
Fairest Lord Jesus



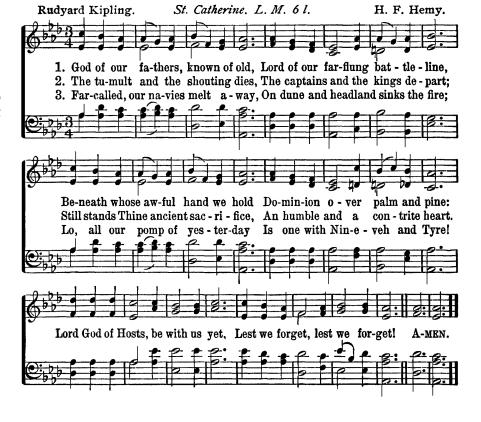
Loyal and True

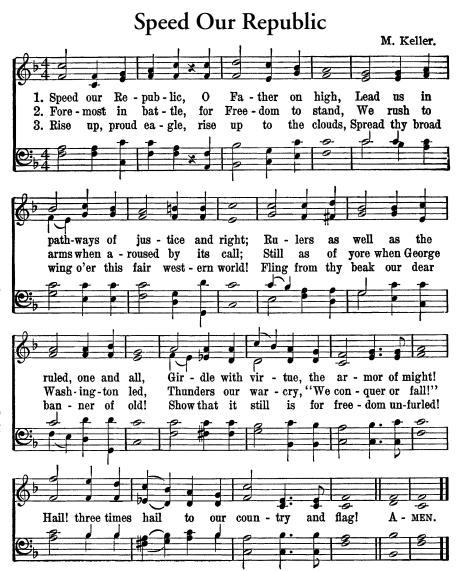


Loyal and True



God of Our Fathers





Of the Civil Magistrate

God, the supreme Lord and King of all the world, hath ordained civil magistrates, to be, under Him, over the people, for His own glory, and the public good: and, to this end, hath armed them with power of the sword, for the defence and encouragement of them that are good, and for the punishment of evil doers.

WCF 5.1

Response



The Treasure of God's Word

The second chapter of the book of Proverbs contains a precious promise for any spiritually awakened soul who is willing to diligently search the Scriptures. The opening five verses of Proverbs 2 state:

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Human beings are masters at inventing ways to try to find the true knowledge of God. The Scriptures, however, plainly teach that God has ordained that sinful men must find out the truth concerning their Creator and the way of salvation through a diligent study of the Holy Bible. When spiritually hungry searchers begin to comprehend that the Word of God provides the only truth that can lead to right-eousness and peace with God, then they are able to understand how great a treasure they have in God's Word.

For those who have been saved by God's grace, Bible study is more than an intellectual religious exercise. The study of God's Word, with childlike zeal and dependence upon the leading of the Holy Spirit, causes readers to find God's power and wisdom for everyday life. Perhaps Job stated it best when he declared that he valued the Word of God "more than my necessary food" (Job 23:12)—and Job only had a portion of the Old Testament!

The man of God named Job is not the only believer to testify to the value of the Holy Scriptures. Across the ages and at this present hour, the people of God regularly witness to the transforming power of God's Word and Spirit. Christian attorney and nationally known advocate for Christ-centered home education, Michael P. Farris, wrote the following testimony concerning the influence of the Bible upon his fruitful life.

My earliest memory involving God's Word is from 1957. As a first grader, I attended a Good News Club and was given an assignment to memorize one verse each week. At the end of each ten-week period I was allowed to take a prize from "the treasure chest." I have no memory of any prize from that chest, but the true treasure I gained is still vibrant within my heart. I can still recite verbatim the first Bible verse I ever learned.

Throughout my years in Sunday School and a boy's program called King's Sons, I memorized dozens and dozens of verses and even a few chapters of Scripture. My parents were new believers and strongly encouraged my memorization and made sure that I received thorough instruction in Bible content and doctrine.

I did well academically in school with a good memory as a significant factor. My mother told me—and I believe it—that my early memorization of Scripture was, in her judgment, a key reason that I developed good memory skills. I have no doubt she was right.

As I approached adulthood I began to rely on the Word of God to give me direction for my life. God used both Micah 6:8 and Proverbs 21:15 to confirm His call for me to attend law school. God's Word was my chief source for determining that it was God's will to move from Washington State to the Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C. And there are many more times God used His Word to illuminate my path.

The things I learned about God's Word and from God's Word are things I am endeavoring to transmit to my children. I want them to:

- read the Word daily,
- memorize the Word,
- understand its meaning, and
- apply it to their lives.

Not only do I want to ensure that my children do these things for themselves, but that they will transmit these values and principles to their children as well. Grandchildren who know, love, and obey God as revealed in His Word will be the real treasure in my life.

May the Lord Jesus Christ give you a hunger to know Him more intimately through a diligent study of His Word. God's Word is indeed a precious treasure, so start digging!

Michael J. McHugh 1999

Scripture Selections

for Responsive Readings

Verses in normal typeface may be read aloud by the worship leader. The verses in bold should be read aloud by the other worshipers.

Selected Psalms

Psalm 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.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.
- 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
- 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 2

- 1 WHY do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
- 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,
- 3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.
- 4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.

- 5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.
- 6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.
- 7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.
- 8 Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.
- 9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.
- Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.
- 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.
- 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Psalm 8

To the chief Musician upon Gittith, A Psalm of David.

- 1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.
- Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

- 3 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?
- 5 For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.
- 6 Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:
- 7 All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field;
- 8 The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.
- 9 O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!

Psalm 15

A Psalm of David.

- 1 LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?
- 2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.
- 3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.
- 4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the LORD. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.
- 5 He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.

Psalm 19

To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

- 1 THE heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork.
- Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,
- 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.
- 6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.
- 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
- 8 The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
- 9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- 10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.
- 11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.
- 12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

- 13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.
- 14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

Psalm 23

A Psalm of David.

- 1 THE LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalm 24

A Psalm of David.

- 1 THE earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.
- 2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

- 3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?
- 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.
- 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
- 6 This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Iacob. Selah.
- 7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.
- 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.
- 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory. Selah.

Psalm 34

- A Psalm of David, when he changed his behaviour before Abimelech; who drove him away, and he departed.
- I WILL bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 They looked unto him, and were lightened: and their faces were not ashamed.

- 6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.
- 7 The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
- 8 O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
- 9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.
- 10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.
- 11 Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
- 12 What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good?
- 13 Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.
- 14 Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.
- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.
- 19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

- 20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.
- 22 The LORD redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.

Psalm 37:1-9

A Psalm of David.

- 1 FRET not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.
- 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.
- 3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.
- 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
- 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.
- 6 And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.
- 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.
- 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.
- 9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

A Prayer of Repentance and Faith

Without salvation, all human beings are spiritually lost. Without Christ, all will die in their sins and enter into a hellish eternity. Jesus calls lost sinners to "come," and to find rest and forgiveness in Him.

As taught in the Scriptures, true repentance and saving faith are the results of God's sovereign work of grace in the heart. That work is a creative act of God, even as in His original work of creation. God generates new life, and the gift of repentance and faith are implanted in the heart. It is totally a work of God. Man cannot earn salvation; God's work of salvation is His gift to man. Such regeneration (or being "born again") is a secret and inscrutable work of God that is never directly perceived by man (like the mysterious movement of the wind—John 3:8); it can only be perceived in its effects—true repentance and saving faith.

Repentance and faith, also known as **conversion**, are not the causes of salvation. The root or cause is God's amazing grace. Conversion is simply the visible result of that gracious and marvelous work.

Are you a Christian? Have you been saved by God's grace? If so, true repentance and saving faith will be the results. You will **forsake** the old sinful life, **believe** God's truth (the Bible), and **receive** it as you **turn** to a life devoted to God.

Below you will find a suggested prayer of repentance and faith.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I believe that you are the one true God, and that you sent your One and only Son to suffer in the place of all sinners who trust in Him as their Savior. I believe that Jesus endured what I ought to have endured, and made atonement to God for my sinful nature and all the sins that I would ever commit. I believe that Christ died, and that He rose bodily from the dead on the third day.

Lord, I know that I have no merit of my own. I deserve to die. Because of my sinful nature, I deserve to perish. I deserve to be destroyed. But you forgive sinners for your own name's sake.

You cannot find anything in us that is spiritually good, or anything that can move you to pity. But, oh, by your grace, have mercy upon me and forgive me. Wash me and make me clean.

Lord, you have said that "him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." And also, "Let the wicked forsake his ways, and the unrighteous man his thoughts." I cast aside all my former confidences, and all my boastings and pride, and come to you as a sinner. I come to you, Lord God, as an utterly lost, undone, spiritually bankrupt sinner; and I look to the atoning sacrifice of Jesus for my salvation.

I thank you, heavenly Father, for this salvation that you have extended to me through Jesus Christ. I thank you that by your grace I have been given life. As one dead in my sins, you have sovereignly saved me. I have not chosen you, but you have chosen me. I love you because you first loved me. And I praise you for your gifts of repentance and faith.

In Jesus name, Amen!

Please remember, it is not your prayer to God that will save you. "Salvation is of the Lord," as the Bible teaches, and as already noted. However, if God has saved you by His grace (regeneration), and has created in you the gifts of repentance and faith (conversion), this prayer will express the desire of your heart. And, even as the disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray," we are offering this prayer simply to help you as you seek to communicate with God and verbally begin to express the gifts of repentance and faith that He has sovereignly granted.

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